

The MIGHTY EIGHTH VOICE



Published for the members of Eighth Air Force

Vol. III
Issue 9

8th Air Force
Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana

October 2003

Weapon increases B-2 capabilities



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nick Martin

Master Sgt. Rich Jewell, 509th Maintenance Group, verifies technical data regarding the new Enhanced Guided Bomb Unit-28. The inert 5,000-pound bomb was loaded into a B-2 to test the interface between the weapon and the aircraft. The interface is tested for connectivity and to ensure the weapon will be reliable

after the weapon is uploaded. The test is part of the post-load validation process. The validation process is also an efficient and practical way to give weapons crews a chance to familiarize themselves with the weapon. The next step of the validation process is scheduled to take place in September.

By Senior Airman Shawn Clements

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

A new weapon for the B-2 arsenal helps put fewer aircrew members at risk while increasing the lethal effectiveness of the bomber.

The Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile is a low-observable, highly survivable, subsonic cruise missile designed to penetrate next-generation air defense systems, said Maj. Raymond Scherr, 509th Operations Support Squadron Weapons Flight commander.

"The JASSM fits perfectly with cur-

rent B-2 operations because the missile's effectiveness reduces the number of weapons and sorties required to destroy high-threat targets," he said.

See B-2, Page 3

Global Presence...Global Influence...Global Responsibility

Volunteers see superheroes in mirror

By Maj. Timothy Dennison
509th Maintenance Operation Squadron

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (ACCNS) — This has been a summer of superheroes. They're on the silver screen and in the sports pages.

But, where are all the real-life heroes? Let me tell you about mine. Bob Hope was an ordinary guy who did something with his God-given talent. Hope, an immigrant who never lost his love, respect or appreciation for this country, was more than a movie star, he was a volunteer. He selflessly gave his time and talent to those who ensured his freedom.

He entertained thousands of troops around the world during war and peace. He touched and perhaps changed thousands of lives, bringing smiles to many and hope to all. He

did all of this, expecting nothing in return except the satisfaction of helping somebody in need.

What does it take to be a hero like Mr. Hope? It takes a simple act of volunteering. You don't have to fly through the air, leap tall buildings or swing from spider webs. I'm not going to require you to dominate the Tour de France or NASCAR. Just step forward, like Mr. Hope did, and make a difference, big or small, it all helps.

There are many opportunities in our lives to help others. Some require a lot of effort and may take a long time to see the effect of your effort. Others might need little effort and show immediate, positive change. You can volunteer as a Big Brother or Sister, or in the local hospital and hospice care center. You could volunteer to rake your elderly neighbor's yard and help paint that

tired fence in the back for them.

You might want to focus closer to home. Help your squadron. Get involved with the squadron's projects. Not only will you feel more connected with the rest of the squadron, the squadron is better because of you. You get the satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference while your squadron benefits from the teamwork. Fundraising, picnics, sports, Toys-for-Tots or highway cleanup, every action you take has positive effect in your work center and the squadron.

The next time you're looking for a hero, don't be surprised if that elderly lady sitting next to you on the airplane or the teenage boy who rides his bike to school everyday are real heroes ... they're volunteers. If you're willing to step up to the challenge by volunteering, all you need to do to find a hero is look in the mirror and you'll see a one!

In the "Spirit"

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- A B-2 Spirit taxis into place on the flightline here Sept. 17 after an 18-hour flight from its home at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Two B-2s and about 100 airmen from the 509th Bomb Wing were here for a bomber training exercise. Andersen AFB is a forward-operating location for bombers and is a key player in the Air Force's global power projection.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joshua Strang

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The missile can operate in areas with high threats and countermeasures while minimizing aircrew exposure to enemy air defenses.

This weapon is capable of being launched from hundreds of miles away from a target instead of tens of miles. It also provides an all-weather launch-and-leave capability against fixed and relocatable targets that are above ground or against hardened, shallow buried point targets.

It's designed to attack fixed point targets requiring precision targeting, guided by a global positioning system and an inertial navigation system.

There is one difference in this weapon, though.

"The JASSM is powered by a small motor, while all our other weapons just fall or glide to the target with help

from gravity and an attached guidance kit," Maj. Scherr said.

So far, only 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron aircrews have tested the missile. The 325th and 393rd Bomb squadrons, and the 394th Combat Training Squadron will soon be involved with the new weapon, along with maintenance and weapons load teams, the major said.

"Pilots will undergo the same or very similar training that is currently used to practice with our other J-series weapons like the Joint Direct Attack Munition and the Joint Stand-Off Weapon," Maj. Scherr said. "This will include simulator training and simulated bombing missions in the jet."

The JASSM weighs 2,250 pounds and is 168 inches long. No modifications are required on the B-2; it will be carried on the standard rotary launcher assembly, he said.



Photo by Captain Denise Kerr

Outstanding Achievement

First Lt. Jay Anderton, aide to 8th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, received his first achievement medal Sept. 17. Lieutenant Anderton's leadership directly led to the 26th Operational Weather Squadron achieving initial operational capability in less than four months of the Air Staff-directed CONUS Forecaster-in-the-loop weather hazards products. His flight designed the fusing process, coordination method and standard operating procedures to mesh four operational weather squadron flight hazard products into one CONUS-wide product.

The "Mighty Eighth" Voice

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Regional, national media experience 9th RW mission

By Tech. Sgt. James Brabenec
9th RW Public Affairs

Thirteen members of regional and national media outlets visited Beale recently to get a first-hand look at the mission of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing.

The media event provided radio, television and print media people an in-depth look at the U-2 and its use in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and an inside look at the Distributed Ground Station-2 facility and the work of intelligence experts from the 13th, 48th and 152nd Intelligence squadrons.

Jennifer Morita, a reporter with the Sacramento Bee, said her editors were excited to get an operational story from Beale. Morita has visited Beale in the past, but always for wing changes of command or facility ground breaking ceremonies.

"This visit was a great opportunity for me to learn more about Beale's mission and get a great story too," said Morita.

The event began with an informational briefing at DGS-2. Media members were then escorted into the DGS compound where they interviewed various intelligence personnel.

Lt. Col. Bradley Butz, 13th Intelligence Squadron commander, welcomed the opportunity to bring credit to his personnel.



Deborah Hoffman, a reporter with KXTV Channel 10 in Sacramento, interviews Maj. Jeff Jungemann about the U-2's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. James Brabenec

Mike TeSelle, a reporter with KCRA Channel 3 in Sacramento, interviews Maj. Jeff Jungemann about the U-2's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom. A total of 13 radio, television and print media outlets came to learn about the 9th Reconnaissance Wing mission.

"If the mantra, 'people first, mission always' still applies, then the media event highlighted the end-to-end U-2, Global Hawk and Predator weapons systems, both front-end, back-end, and wing-to-wing while giving credit to the people who make the weapons systems tick. Our people make the mission, and it was absolutely great to give them a long-overdue moment in the sun," he said.

Following the DGS coverage, media members then traveled to the flight line area and a waiting U-2 static display where they interviewed U-2 pilots and aircraft maintenance personnel.

The value of this access was readily apparent as both KCRA and Fox 40 reporter taped dialogue from inside the U-2 cockpit.

Brian Gilbert, a reporter with KUBA radio in Yuba City, thanked the 9th Reconnaissance Wing for the media event.

"This event was well coordinated and offered a great deal of information of interest to KUBA's listening audience," he said. "This type of access to Beale has been hard to come by in the past, but very much appreciated now."

8 AF lawyer earns Young Federal Lawyer award

By Capt. Denise Kerr
8th Air Force Public Affairs

The Federal Bar Association presented one of its top honors to the 8th Air Force Chief of General Law at their annual luncheon in Arlington, Va., Sept. 19.

Maj. David Frakt earned the 2003 Younger Federal Lawyer Award for his outstanding legal abilities and accomplishments over a sustained period of time.

The award recognizes young federal lawyers who strive to attain high standards of professional achievement and performance.

As Chief of General Law, Frakt is responsible for variety of issues affecting 30,000 personnel at 8th Air Force. Maj. Frakt helps to oversee the administration of military justice at Fort Meade, Barksdale and Minot ensuring fairness and helping to maintain good order and discipline. With half of his 70 courts-martial as a prosecutor, and

half as a defense counsel, Frakt feels he is able to provide balanced advice to the convening authority.

"I nominated Dave a few weeks ago for accomplishments throughout his Air Force career," said Col. Rich Harding, 8th Air Force Staff Judge Advocate.

"I was pleasantly surprised and grateful to receive the award," said Frakt.

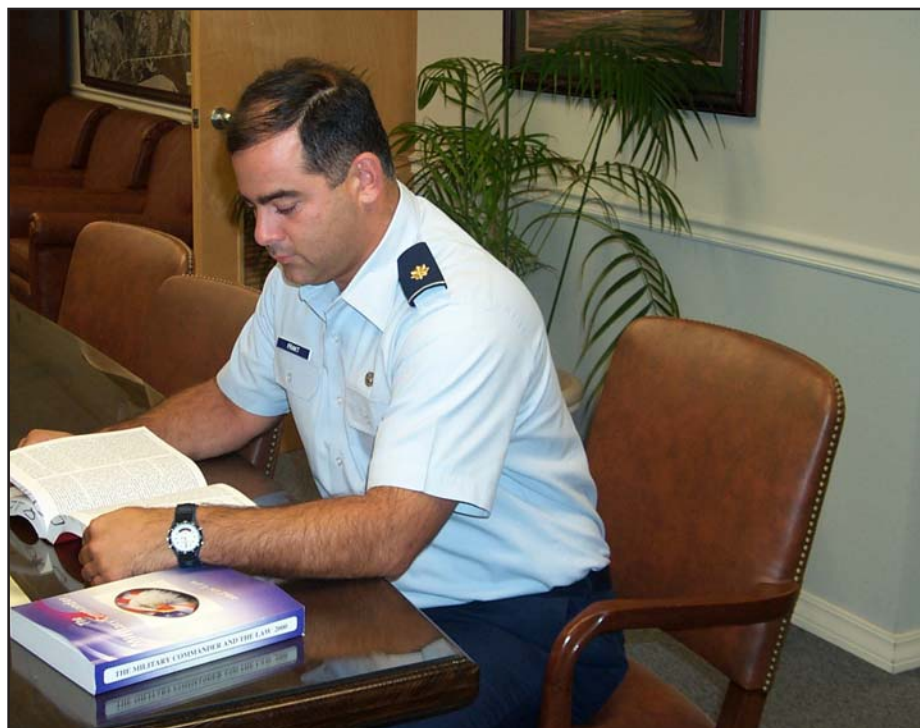
Frakt's winning the award not only represented his accomplishments but others in the Judge Advocate General Corps as well, said Harding.

"Major Frakt has provided outstanding service to the United States Air Force and the nation," said Col. Harding. "We are lucky to have him assigned to Eighth Air Force. However, he would be the first to tell you that his award represents not only his work, but the work of many other superb JAGs, paralegals, and civilian legal support staff who assisted him throughout his career.

A cum laude graduate of Harvard

Law School, he began his federal service in 1994 as a law clerk to the Hon. Monroe G. McKay, former Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit. After his clerkship, Frakt entered the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps as a volunteer in Sept. 1995. He subsequently was assigned to Ramstein AB as Chief of Legal Assistance and Preventive Law and later as Chief of Adverse Actions.

Later in 1998, while assigned to Hill AFB he served as Chief of Claims and Adverse Actions. He also was named a Distinguished Graduate from Squadron Officer School in the fall. In 1999, Frakt was Air Force Material Command's ABA Outstanding Young Military Service Lawyer recipient. Next as Deputy Chief of Operations and International Law at Hickam AFB, he was deployed to the Philippines for Exercise Balikatan and Japan for Exercise Terminal Fury. Frakt was assigned to his current position in April 2003.



Maj. David Frakt looks over legal journals in the 8th Air Force Judge Advocate Library. Frakt was named the 2003 Younger Federal Lawyer Award for his outstanding legal accomplishments.

Photo by Capt. Denise Kerr

Aerospace Warrior Attitude



TSgt. Luis Vazquez
26th Operational Weather
Squadron
Barksdale AFB, La.

Years of service: 13

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Family: Wife, Heidi and son, Luis II

Job title: Unit training manager and NCOIC of administrative office

Primary duties and responsibilities: Manages the technical training and certification actions for 180 officers and airmen. Coordinating formal specialty training and other supplemental training with base, MAJCOM and Air Force level training agencies. They make my job both enjoyable and rewarding.

Most rewarding job aspect: Working with professionals. I am very fortunate to have worked alongside and with some of the best people in the Air Force.

Goals: I want to make master sergeant! Anything after that will be a bonus.

I'm most proud of: My brothers, Carlos and Jorge, and my son Luis. The people I work with, particularly Staff Sgt. Deanna Stoddard and Staff Sgt. Terry Hutton and everyone in the 26th OWS.

My best asset: My ability to get along with people.

What motivates your winning attitude: I wouldn't say "what" but more like "who." My mother for always telling me to treat people right. Senior Master Sgt. Steven Yelenic for always giving me the positive reinforcement I needed.

Favorite aspects of your base: The scenery. Despite all the construction going on, the historical buildings and landscaping make this one of the best-looking bases I've been assigned to.

Eighth Air Force Salutes...

Bronze Star

Brig. Gen. John H. Bordelon Jr.

8 AF/IMA

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Nelson English (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster)

608 CPS

Lt. Col. Terrence Klefisch

608 COS

Maj. Gary Horne

608 CPS

Maj. Mark Matsushima

8 AF/CAG

Senior Master Sgt. Kathleen Smith

608 AOG

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Charles J. Maurer Jr. (First Oak Leaf Cluster)

608 AIS

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Moran (Third Oak Leaf Cluster)

608 ACOMS

Master Sgt. Lavell Drayton

8 AF/OV

Master Sgt. John Jackson

8 AF/JA

Commendation Medal

1st Lt. Todd Randolph (Third Oak Leaf Cluster)

8 AF/CCQ

8 AF Airman of the Month

Senior Airman Desiree Herring

26 OWS

Congratulations to **Col. Richard C. Harding, 8 AF/JAG**, for being named the 2002 Air Combat Command Senior Attorney of the Year and to **Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Touhey, 8 AF/OV**, for graduating from the Senior NCO Academy Class 03-E as the Distinguished Graduate.

Welcome to the "Mighty Eighth"

*The following people joined the Headquarters
 8th Air Force team in September:*

♦ **Senior Airman Justin Riley**

608th Air Communications Squadron

♦ **Maj. Joseph Divar**

608th Air Operations Group

♦ **2nd Lt. Nicholas Streitz**

608th Air Intelligence Squadron

♦ **Lt. Col. Berry Thomas**

608th Combat Plans Squadron

**Does someone you know
 deserve to be "Spotlighted?"**
 Call 8th Air Force Public Affairs at
 DSN 781-2156, or e-mail us at
 8af/pa@barksdale.af.mil



Hurricane displaces KC-10s to Barksdale

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee
2d Bomb Wing

Team Barksdale offered refuge from Hurricane Isabel to five KC-10 Extenders from McGuire AFB, N.J., in September.

The quick deployment was nothing new to his units said Lt. Col. Mike Hornitschek, 2d Air Refueling Squadron commander.

"Moving out quickly with a 12- to 24-hour notice is something we're prepared for," he said. "We'll be doing normal headquarters-tasks missions while we're here."

The base was alerted just a few hours before the first plane arrived. Barksdale was chosen in part because it was properly equipped to house the planes said base officials. The KC-10s conduct aerial refueling missions. The base used to have two squadrons of KC-10s before they were moved to McGuire and Travis AFB, Calif., in late 1994.

"It's very poignant to come back here," said Hornitschek. "It's sort of a homecoming."

According to Col. George Gagnon, 2nd Operations group commander, the move has a minimal effect on everyone's flying schedule.

"They'll be here for about a week," he said. "They will fly their normal training regime with us."

Hornitschek said they were happy to be able to stay at Barksdale but were also eager to get back home and assist in the aftermath of the storm.

"As soon as the weather clears back home, we're back on our way," he said. "Our intentions are to get back and help with the cleanup."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Denise Rayder

Aircrew from one of five KC-10s arrive at Barksdale. The crew was diverted here to avoid Hurricane Isabel.

Airman spars 'down under' in world championship

By A1C Colleen Wronek
55th Wing Public Affairs

An Offutt airman has a chance to represent the military and the United States at a world martial arts competition 'down under.'

Senior Airman Gary Meek, 55th Communications Squadron computer operator and assistant Tae Kwon Do instructor at the Youth Center, will be on a six-person team competing for the Tae Kwon Do World Championship title in Brisbane, Australia this month.

Meek, 24, is the youngest in his rank, a fourth degree black belt.

"I have been in the fourth degree for 3 ½ years now," Meek said. "I'll be testing next year for the fifth (degree)."

Meek first learned Tae Kwon Do when he was four years old from his father who is a seventh degree black belt and Master Instructor at the Youth Center. Meek has been assisting his father since 1989.

The World Championship compe-

tition includes individual and team pattern and sparring competitions, as well as a breaking competition.

"In Australia, I will be competing on a team," Meek said. "I can do horrible and everybody else on my team can be real good and we win, or I can do well but the rest of the team doesn't and we lose the competition."

In America, Tae Kwon Do is like tag fighting. In other countries it's almost full contact fighting.

"It is very hard to spar here because of the rules," Meek said. "If you knock out someone here you are disqualified. If you knock out someone over there, and it doesn't look like its on purpose, it's okay."

Control is necessary when sparring. "You have to kick fast, hit hard and have control," Meek said. "If you lose control you don't win."

Maturity is a must with any martial art. "When we teach children, we teach light contact," Meek said. "We consider a child an

adult at the age of 13, although if they are 11 or 12 years and show maturity, we can stick them in an adult class."

Meek is one of the youngest to obtain international instructor certification from the International Tae Kwon Do Federation. He has attended numerous courses and seminars in self defense, knife defense and grappling. He is also a nationally certified referee and instructor.

"It's possible to train anybody," Meek said. "Old or young, handicapped or healthy, traditional martial arts are very lenient and forgiving. My dad has even trained a guy with no arms."

Meek recommends traditional martial arts as a good starting point for an understanding of self defense. "Everybody needs a basis to learn how to kick and punch properly," Meek said. "Unlike traditional martial arts, a mixed martial arts class will rush you through it."

Senior Airman Gary Meek, 55th Communications Squadron operator and assistant Tae Kwon Do instructor fourth degree black belt, and Catherine Alock, assistant instructor and third degree black belt, spar together during practice Aug. 26. Meek is part of a six person team competing for the Tae Kwon Do Championship title in Australia this month.



Courtesy photo